

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2002.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (Chair - District 4), Jerry Trumps (Vice Chair - District 6), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Robert Castille (District 2), Chris Williams (District 3), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk of the Council) and Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter S. Comeaux, Jr. (City-Parish President), Glenn Weber (CAO), Becky LaLumia (Associate CAO/Finance Management), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Chief Ronald Boudreaux (Police Department), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning and Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Utilities Director), Tim Breaux (Director of Community Development), John Raines (Public Works Director), Steve Dupuis (Legal Counsel), Tony Tramel (Director of Transportation)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(020) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. called the Special Council Meeting of August 27, 2002 to order.

Councilmember Rob Stevenson was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTIONS

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(025) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: R-042-2002 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council ordering and calling a special election to be held in the City of Lafayette, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of special taxes therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, motion to approve by Trumps, seconded by Broussard.

Lt. Mike Dibenedetto, Police Department, on behalf of the men and women of the Lafayette Police Department, thanked the Council for bringing this issue up for a vote. He also thanked President Comeaux and the Administration for their support.

Upon questioning by Williams, Dibenedetto verified that the resolution called for an increase of 3 mills for the police department and 2 mills for the fire department to address salaries and retention issues.

Jay Castille, Lafayette Fire Department, was then recognized. Mr. Castille stated that the fire department would like to see 3 mills for the police department and 3 mills for the fire department, if possible, and would also like to see the mills dedicated to salaries only.

An amendment was offered by Trumps, and agreed upon by the second, to take out the word "protection" in each proposition and **add in "salaries and salary related benefits"**.

Upon questioning by Williams, Osborne explained that residents in the City, who own on a \$75,000 house, the millage would be \$37.50 per year or \$3.00 per month. You would multiple \$75,000 by 10% which equals \$7500. \$5 equals 1,000 of valuation. Regarding the Library, a Parish resident would be granted a homestead exemption (the first \$75,000 is exempt). At \$100,000, a parish resident would subtract the first \$75,000 and only pay tax on the other \$25,000.

Mouton inquired as to what this millage increase did to the starting pay for new recruits and what it would do in Year 2 as compared to the State Police. Chief Boudreaux answered that State

starting pay is approximately \$22,000 a year, then after a year, with State Supplemental pay, they go to \$27,000. The State Police proposal is to start their recruits at \$27,000 and then go to \$36,000 after a year with 3% increases up to the 15th year and then 1% longevity pay. With the amount of money generated from the 3 mills, it's possible to project a starting salary at \$27,000 and then after a year, go to \$33,000. Longevity will be figured in also.

The Chair then called for the vote on the ordinance, as amended, and the vote was as follows;
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was unanimously approved as amended.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(386) A motion was offered by Broussard, seconded by Trumps, to recess the Special Meeting in order to call the Regular Meeting to order (see Regular Meeting of August 27, 2002), and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was unanimously approved.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(403) A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Castille to reconvene the Special Meeting and the vote was as follows:
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was unanimously approved.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(410) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: R-043-2002 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana, to authorize the incurring of debt, issuance of bonds and the levy of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission in connection therewith; and providing for other matters in connection therewith, motion to adopt by Williams, seconded by Trumps, and the vote was as follows;
YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: None
Motion was unanimously approved.

Jerry Osborne, Bond Counsel, explained that the Library has devised a program where they would like to have the Council ask the people to authorize the issuance of \$40,000,000 of bonds for library improvements, and to authorize a 2 mill maintenance and operating tax. Their program involved issuing bonds in such a way, and over such a period of time, that the total millage will not exceed 3 mills in any one year. This is a multi-year program but no more than \$40,000,000 in bonds can be issued in one year. In the first year, the 2 mills will not be needed for O & M since the buildings will not be constructed. The Library plans to subsidize the bond payments by reducing the operating millage in the early years. They are hopeful that the assessed valuation will go up over a period of years and that they will be able to issue the entire amount of bonds in order to build the libraries as set forth.

Gail Smith, Library Director, added that the initial proposal was for 5 new branches, renovation of the main library with completion of the third floor. To accommodate the reduced millage, the plan was scaled back. Now proposed is the elimination of one branch and the scaling back of the size of the 4 remaining proposed branches.

Mr. Blaise Sonnier, Library Board of Control member, then gave a presentation on the Library proposal.
(TAPE 1)(SIDE B) No audio on this side of tape.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(001) After much discussion, Ms. Smith clarified that if both R-043-2002 and R-044-2002 were approved, the Library's proposal will be granted. R-043-2002 calls for an election to authorize the issuance of \$40,000,000 and the use of 2 mils for operations and

maintenance. R-044-2002 authorizes an additional 1 mil not to exceed 3 mils.

(TAPE 3)(SIDE A)(080) Comeaux explained that the Administration is recommending the 2 mils. He pointed out that the Administration has to look at all operations as a whole and that it would have been easy to request an additional mil for the fire and police departments. However, in requesting only 2 mils for the Library it allows everyone something to go forward with without going too far and leaving enough money to go to other areas of the public. Smith added that if the Library was limited to 2 mils the Southside Library would be built and piecemeal renovations to the main Library could be done.

The following individuals signed in to support R-043-2002 and R-044-2002:

Lee Verret
Florrie Turner
L. Eloise Mullen

Barbara Martin
Diana Nolan

(TAPE 3)(SIDE A)(291) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: R-044-2002 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council accepting an Engineering and Feasibility Report entitled "Recommended Capital Improvements Program" prepared for the Parish of Lafayette, State of Louisiana, by the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, Department of Public Works, relating to a proposed issue of Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000) of general obligation bonds for said Parish, proposed capital improvements in connection therewith, and a bond election therefor, ordering the filing thereof and providing for publication of a summary of such report in the official journal of the Parish of Lafayette as required by Section 5-08 of the Home Rule Charter of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, motion to adopt as amended **(amendment being to amend the Engineering and Feasibility Report to include the operations and maintenance costs and Schedule 1 and 2)** by Williams, seconded by Mouton, and the vote was as follows;

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Osborne explained that he felt that if the Council was going to consider the feasibility of the project it was appropriate to consider the capital funding of the project and how to operate and maintain it. The Lafayette City-Parish Home Rule Charter does not define a feasibility report but, out of caution, he felt operations and maintenance should be included.

ADJOURNMENT

(TAPE 3)(SIDE A)(468) There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Benjamin declared the meeting adjourned.

(The Regular Meeting was then re-convened)

NORMA A. DUGAS
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL